

Communications Workers of America AFL-CIO
UNIFIED COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN



August 31, 2009

TO: Michigan Legislators, Energy & Technology Committee

FROM: CWA Unified Council of Michigan
J. Lemonnier, Legislative Chair

Re: HR 4257

The CWA Locals in Michigan currently are opposed to HR 4257 for the following reasons:

- We have been unable to find out what the cost of oversight or administration of this legislation would be.
- We have been unable to find out what will happen to customer rates as a result of the legislation.
- The current fund requirements legislate a basic local exchange rate of \$19.25 to qualify.
- This legislation while trying to give relief to large telephone providers increases cost to rural providers and rural consumers.

Given Michigan's current budget crisis we believe it is incumbent on the E/T Committee to establish the oversight and administration costs prior to voting this bill out of Committee.

The Michigan Telephone rate payers also should be aware that this legislation could and in some cases will increase their subscriber rates. We find it interesting that with the emphasis on deregulating the telephone industry the bill legislates the basic local exchange rate at \$19.25.

Until we are able to get our concerns addressed we will be strongly opposed to HR 4257.

Respectfully,

J. Lemonnier, Legislative Chair for
The CWA Unified Council of Michigan